22 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway; "and even if my head would go through," thought poor Alice, "it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope! I think I could, if I only knew how to begin." For, you see, so many out-of-the-way things had happened lately, that Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible.

There seemed to be no use in waiting by the little door, so she went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or at any rate a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes: this time she found a little bottle on it ("which certainly was not here before," said Alice), and tied round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words "DRINK ME" beautifully printed on it in large letters.

It was all very well to say "Drink me," but the wise little Alice was not going to do that in a hurry. "No, I'll look first," she said, "and see whether it's marked 'poison' or not"; for she had read several nice little stories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts, and other unpleasant things, all because they would not remember the

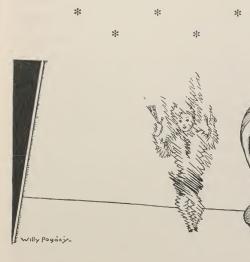
simple rules their friends had as, that a red-hot poker will burn

DOWN THE RABBIT

too long; and that, if you cut deeply with a knife, it usually be never forgotten that, if you dr bottle marked "poison," it is alr

agree with you, sooner or later.

However, this bottle was not so Alice ventured to taste it, an nice (it had, in fact, a sort of cherry-tart, custard, pine-apple, and hot buttered toast), she vit off.



"What a curious feeling!" sai be shutting up like a telescope!"